

Live Stock.

RAPE EXPERIENCE.

Repeatedly has The Progressive Farmer called attention to the value of rape for stock. Alfred Denny, a Missouri farmer, in a recent issue of Wallace's Farmer, gives his experience with the crop as follows:

In reply to your inquiry concerning the production of rape, I would say that last year was my first experience with rape, but probably it would be of some interest to some of your many readers. At early sowing time, I sowed just one half acre of vacant lots in rape, sowing at the rate of four pounds to the acre. In six weeks it was twenty inches high, and then I allowed fifteen hogs and seven fattening sheep free access to it, after they had become used to it. The hogs obtained their whole living in the rape patch for three months, and I was well pleased with their growth and healthy condition.

The sheep were comparatively poor when they entered the rape patch, but in six weeks they were rolling fat.

The rape grew so rapidly that the above mentioned stock could not keep it down, and I was obliged to turn in a few calves and the whole flock of sheep, which consisted of 66 head of ewes and lambs, but when the drought set in I took the main flock off and kept the seven fattening sheep and the hogs in good condition.

At the last plowing of the corn I sowed four acres of it in rape, and when I weaned the lambs, the first of September, I turned them in on it, and was well pleased with the result.

In addition to it being a cattle and sheep food we found it to be a great poultry food. The hens seemed to lay better and were of a healthier condition than usual.

"WOLF IN THE COW'S BACK."

The following from last week's Scotland Neck Commonwealth contains some pointers from Corresponding Editor Irby regarding a common complaint with stockmen:

"Wolf in the cow's back" has attracted unusual attention this season.

The editor of The Commonwealth wrote to Agriculturist B. Irby at the Department of Agriculture in the A. & M. College at Raleigh. He writes concerning the best method of getting rid of them as follows:

"I have always thought the best way was to carefully squeeze them out, and then you get rid of the dead carcass rotting and being absorbed by the animal system. For example, you can wash the cow's back with brine, and this sinks into the holes, gets into the wattle and kills it. A drop of turpentine will do the same thing. Unfortunately, however, this remedy leaves the worm to be absorbed by the cow's system, and it is almost as irritating to the cow dead as when alive, whereas, if squeezed out you get rid of the trouble at once.

"It might be of interest," continues Prof. Irby, "to you to know how this insect finds lodgment in the cow's back. They are taken into the mouth when they are larvae. They work their way through the alimentary canal, and work through the flesh up to the cow's back, and there stop for further development, gradually cutting through the hide, later coming out in the form of a fly."

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Horticulture.

APPLE ORCHARDS FOR HILLSIDES.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

In order to establish a good apple orchard on a hillside where the rains are apt to wash the soil away in deep gullies and ridges, it is necessary that a good grass sod be established in some way. The soil that is left uncultivated in the spring and summer will be pretty well cut up before fall and many roots of the trees will be exposed. Where it is difficult to get a good sod cow peas make an excellent crop for first sowing. The seed should be sown liberally and the vines should be turned under if possible. Sometimes in the fall this is not practical on account of the low-hanging branches laden with fruit. But after the apples are gathered it is possible to turn the vines under to enrich the soil.

Clover and orchard grasses are the best to sow after the cow peas, and the seeds of these will generally get established after the first season. If the storms wash gullies down in spite of this they should be filled in with fresh soil and then protected by boards or stones. By collecting the water to one side the flow will run across the grass sod and give the old gullies a chance to become permanent sod. A little work in this way will in time cover the worst hillside with a thick sod.

But cultivation of grass sod is essential. The trees do not do well if the soil is never stirred. The grass sod must be broken up and turned under. This should be done in patches and not over the whole field in one year. Run the plow around the hillside and not up and down. In this way sort of ridges can be thrown up which will help to keep the rains from pouring down in swift, destructive streams. Hillside cultivation of orchards is one of the most difficult arts of the modern orchardist, but if properly done it will pay well. Many of the hills are good for little else than orchards, and they may be abandoned, as many of them are to-day, if they cannot be cultivated so that the rich soil is retained. The roots of the trees and also of the grass are the binding material which makes the freshets of spring harmless. The more we can knit the soil together in this way the better will the land prove for orcharding or any other form of agriculture.

GROWING MUSKMELONS.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

All things considered, there is probably nothing grown in the garden that equals the muskmelon as a delicacy. The fruit has been grown from a very early date, and is supposed to be a native of the hotter parts of Asia, whence it has been introduced all over the world. Writers tell us that in some parts of the Orient, where the melon grows readily in the open air, it forms one of the chief articles of food. In England the melon is very highly prized as a desert fruit. It is, however, comparatively a luxury, glass houses or frames with artificial heat being necessary for success with it. In this country, owing to our vast range of climatic conditions, it has become through continuous breeding, adaptable to a wide range of territory.

The reasons for failure with muskmelons seems to be insufficient culture, destructive insects, careless selection of varieties and lack of fertilization of the blossoms.

Well-drained soils containing considerable humus or vegetable matter are the best for muskmelons. The lighter soils are preferable. The best fertilizer is one rich in all the elements of plant food, except stimulating nitrogen.

Frequent cultivation and hand hoeing is of great importance. The growth from the first should be continuous. Once checked, the vines seldom regain their original vigor and productiveness.

Plant sufficient seed so that from three to five good plants can be depended upon.

For the cucumber or squash beetles, dust with tobacco; for the common black squash bug, collect and destroy the eggs and the insects in the cooler portion of the day.

J. L. LADD, Bay City, Texas.

Observant travellers tell us that the farmers throughout this section are preparing to plant a big cotton crop, and this observation applies with equal force to our Cleveland county farmers. Perhaps the cotton acreage will be the largest we have had for several years.—Shelby Star.

Farm Miscellany.

THINNING CORN.

There is no occasion for thinning corn—no use having it to do at all. Of all farm work thinning corn is perhaps the most tedious and distasteful. It breaks backs, fatigues the whole body and makes a farmer sore on his vocation. Since the banishment of the hand planters (the boys used to call them 'jobbers') and the introduction of the horse planters or check rowers thinning corn has gone out of date. The modern planters drop with remarkable regularity and uniformity the desired number of grains per hill, the plates being so made as to receive one, two, three or four grains. Of course the accuracy of the implement will be concerned by the character of the seed used; a mixture of little, middle-sized and large grain admits of no accuracy and the planter will drop one, two, three, four and occasionally ten or twelve grains. Uniform seed will be planted as nearly accurate by the modern planter as one can expect. Thinning corn adds materially to the cost of producing the crop and the work represents an inexcusable loss of time to the farmer. The utilization of good machinery will render it unnecessary.—Farmers' Voice.

IMPROVED FARM TOOLS.

Tools that cut wide sweeps across the field, with three or four horses to draw them, instead of one man at each team, are desirable. I have seen one man riding a roller all day and another dragging all day in the same field. Why not put both teams on the roller and fasten the drag behind? Then one man can do the work of two and not be tired out when night comes, from walking all day over plowed ground. Fasten two drags side by side and put teams enough to draw them, so that every time you go round a field 80 rods long you have more than an acre done. Thirty to forty bouts would mean 15 miles' travel, and 30 acres dragged over. This is better than two men following round the same field and accomplishing no more, writes I. N. Cowdry.

More teams doubled up mean less hired help. Arrange it so that the men ride whenever possible. Then a boy—or an old man with only one leg, for that matter—can do as much dragging or rolling as the best athlete, after the team is hitched up and he is on the seat. Then in large fields, that are free from stumps and stones, the riding-plow that turns two furrows comes in play.

GROW FRUIT.

There is no farm in this country where a sufficiency of delicious fruit could not be grown, writes E. W. Kirkpatrick.

The discouragements to fruit-growing in the late frosts of spring may be easily overcome by planting hardy varieties, or varieties that bloom late enough to escape frost. The discouragements to fruit-growing in the late frosts of spring may be easily overcome by planting hardy varieties, or varieties that bloom late enough to escape frost. The discouragements to fruit-growing in the late frosts of spring may be easily overcome by planting hardy varieties, or varieties that bloom late enough to escape frost.

Fruit on the farm is a profitable investment in many ways. It voices the rich and valuable elements of the soil, its foliage cools the summer air, its perfume sweetens the breeze, and its health giving food gladdens and cheers all members of the family. It breaks the blasts of winter and deflects the glare of summer. It in

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vites sweet choristers in spring and showers manna in autumn. The orchard increases the income and lessens the expense; raises the selling price and lifts the mortgage; adds to the renting price and aids the renter to pay it. The sale of the surplus fruit by the boy may awaken the latent faculty of a merchant prince or a horticultural king.

The chief pride of the State is a well equipped farm and the best and most important part of its equipment is its source of fruit supply.

More care in the selection of seed and varieties I believe is needed just now than anything else. Seedsmen and consumers of dried peas and beans are becoming more critical and exacting. They demand the best and pay accordingly. In raising crops of this nature it is impossible to tell beforehand the acreage or the average size of the crop, consequently the producer cannot estimate the output or chances of good prices. In most other farm products it is easier to foretell a possible glut in the market. It is well to dispose of the crop as a consequence as early as possible at a fair price. Plenty of dealers and seedsmen will make offers for the output if the condition of the seeds is guaranteed to be prime. This method of selling the crop in advance is in most cases the best, and produces more general satisfaction.—S. W. Chambers.

I am more than pleased to see you take the stand you do take in this oleo business. I am proud to claim to belong to the honest farmer class and therefore condemn in the strongest terms that I can think of, the attempt of these oleo people to palm off their products for genuine butter.—George P. Wood, New York.

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